

The Utah Commission on Volunteers

Volunteer Voice

A newsletter for those in the volunteer and service sectors in Utah

From the Executive Director...

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2006

The December 2006 Commission on Volunteers board meeting was a great opportunity to reflect on our individual and collective accomplishments in 2006. Just a few highlights of our staff's accomplishments include these: Steve Rundquist was named the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Director in March and has worked tirelessly to bring quality to the Citizen Corps/CERT community; Lani Nisbet led the Citizen Corps volunteer presence for 11 straight days at the Utah State Fair and worked with Steve Rundquist to increase the number of Citizen Corps Councils in Utah to 57; LaDawn Stoddard deserves kudos for bringing us smoothly through a routine but exhaustive federal audit; Candace Powers has guided eight AmeriCorps programs and the new Utah Citizen Corps VISTA Project to new levels of excellence; and Sanobi Johnson Phillips coordinated, along with our host committee, an excellent Conference on Service in May. Stephanie Brown, the last of five YES Ambassadors serving in Utah, established a new partnership with the First Lady's Office and created the "Power in Youth to Make A Difference" DVD as her Legacy Project for the Points of Light Foundation. Marko Mijic, UCOV's youth board member and intern was invaluable in making the annual Conference on Service and Youth Summit successful. Pati Comes completes her term of service as a VISTA member in January and will be greatly missed for her sterling service to the CERT program. The one thing I am most proud of

professionally is the launch of the Be Ready Utah campaign, an initiative that one year ago was just an idea in the minds of a few Citizen Corps enthusiasts.

Our board members also deserve recognition for their outstanding accomplishments. Here are some highlights from our last board meeting: Linda Dunn, who will be leaving at the end of the year as Director of Utah Campus Compact, reminded us that Utah is the only state (out of 31 states that have Campus Compacts) where *all* colleges and universities in the state are on board. Linda Dunn and Alan Griffin have also been instrumental in the creation of the Governor's Commission on Civic Character and Service Learning. Wally Brown reported that The Rotary Club Project delivered 35,000 dictionaries to 3rd graders in Utah and also created a Hispanic Rotary Club. Michael Lester reported that letter carriers in Utah collected over one million pounds of food in this year's drive. Josh Pedersen, who participated in the 211 Field Leadership Council, noted that Utah is a model for the nation in the 211 Information and Referral System. These are just a few highlights.

In June of 2006, the Corporation for National and Community Service released its landmark report, "Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings" which ranked Utah number one in the nation for volunteering across nearly every sector. This proves that all of you, board members, volunteer center directors, non-profit leaders, and members of community and faith-based organizations are great ambassadors for service and

Lieutenant Governor's Corner

Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert stated at the most recent UCOV board meeting, "I am impressed with the things that the Commission on Volunteers board members are involved with and doing. When I hear what you are accomplishing, I am motivated to do better and see how I can improve my service to the state of Utah. Government has significant limitations when it comes to being able to help people. What this board is doing in volunteerism is significantly the most important thing."

The Utah Commission on Volunteers is a 25-member policy board appointed by the Governor. Its mission is to improve communities through service and volunteering in Utah. On December 7, 2006, at the last of the four UCOV board meetings held this year, two new board members were welcomed: Christine Kearl, Governor's Deputy for Education, and Colonel Michael Kuehn, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Other action at the December 7, 2006 meeting included the installation of four new Executive Committee members: Bill Hulterstrom, 1st Vice Chair, Elaine Gause, 2nd Vice Chair, Alan Griffin, Secretary, and Michael Lester, Treasurer. These new Executive Committee members, along with Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert as Chair, serve as the official public voice of the Utah Commission on Volunteers year round.

volunteering in Utah. We salute you and all the volunteers in Utah!

We can do even better in 2007, especially when it comes to preparing individuals, families, schools, businesses, and our communities for disasters of all kinds. I invite you to support the Be Ready Utah campaign in 2007 by making a plan and getting a kit. Visit our website at www.BeReadyUtah.org. There are even holiday gift giving ideas for improving the level of preparedness in your families! Make a New Year's Resolution to Be Ready, Utah!

To start out the New Year right, the Utah Commission on Volunteers is offering an important training for volunteer managers. If your organization has a role in managing spontaneous volunteers in a disaster, plan to attend the Volunteer Coordination Center Training on January 11th. This excellent one-day training is being

presented by our sister commission, Volunteer Florida. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. See the attached flyer or contact LaDawn Stoddard at 538-8646.

The upcoming Rotary International Conference in June is an example of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy volunteering alongside people from all over the world. Let's support COV Board member Wally Brown and his host committee generously! Other volunteer opportunities are available in every corner of our communities everyday, starting with our own neighbors.

I hope you will take time to reflect on your accomplishments this past year, be kind and generous in your praise to yourself and to others, and face the New Year with resolve to try something new in volunteering!

Ready Your Family
Ready Your Community
Ready Your School
Ready Your Business



Be Ready Utah

"Be Ready Utah" is an emergency preparedness initiative for individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. It includes the schools and businesses that educate and provide prosperity for those communities.

The overarching message of "Be Ready Utah" is that preparedness leads to prosperity and that every community should provide resources so that its citizens can be prepared, be trained and be volunteers who are ready to serve should a disaster strike.

The call to action is Be Informed, Make a Plan, Get a Kit, and volunteer. Every community, school, faith-based organization, agency, association and business can create innovative ways and tools to support the "Be Ready Utah" campaign.



Be ready for an emergency or disaster!!
www.BeReadyUtah.org

CERT Program — 2006 Highlights

- Public "CERT Conversation" meetings were conducted on a regional basis throughout the State to meet and listen to local CERT Program leaders.
- A state-wide Utah CERT Advisory Board (UCAB) has been established which has now organized and held four monthly meetings. UCAB has conducted an initial Needs Assessment, identified critical issues to the Utah CERT Community, and is establishing sub-committees to prioritize and address those issues.
- An initial draft of State CERT Program Guidelines has been developed and distributed throughout the CERT community for review.
- A three-day CERT Train-the-Trainer Course was conducted with seventy-two (72) participants, featuring guest Trainers from the Los Angeles City Fire Department, original creators of the CERT program.
- A new training program, "Hands-On Skills Refresher Training for CERT Trainers" was developed and successfully piloted with thirty-eight (38) participants. This new course to improve and maintain the hands-on skill levels of CERT trainers will be presented quarterly, and eventually on a regional basis state-wide.
- Multiple presentations have been made to both public and school audiences to introduce the "TeenCERT" program to Utah Schools, and sixty (60) High School students have now completed the pilot program on three high school campuses.
- The Civil Air Patrol in Utah has been engaged as a major partner in the CERT program and has included CERT training in both its Senior Member and Cadet Programs.
- The Utah 4-H Program of Utah State University Extension has adopted CERT as an authorized 4-H activity and is encouraging 4-H CERT on a statewide basis.
- State CERT conducted the Basic CERT Course for statewide AmeriCorps Volunteers.
- State CERT conducted the Basic CERT Course for state employees on Capitol Hill.
- A State CERT Program communication system is being implemented to encourage "Lessons Learned" and "Best Practices" throughout local Utah CERT programs, including websites for both the general public and CERT Program Leaders, database sharing and a Listserv.
- Improved reporting and record keeping procedures and protocols are being implemented.



Citizen Corps — The Place to Be

National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide initiative held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2006 was sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#). The goal was to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action by getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan and being informed about the different types of emergencies that may affect them. Citizen Corps added the important message of becoming involved in our communities to help make them safer, stronger, and better prepared!

More than 1,150 public and private sector organizations representing every state in the nation promoted emergency preparedness through hundreds of events and activities in communities across the country.

One of Utah's Citizen Corps' largest efforts was hosting a booth at the **Utah State Fair**. WalMart and the Department of Public Safety partnered with us to help make this event memorable as well as educational through demonstrations and information. Fairgoers were able to "experience" a house fire, a 7.0 earthquake

Many hours were volunteered over an eleven day period with over 2,000 copies of emergency preparedness information given out. Caring, enthusiastic volunteers spent hours talking to their "neighbors" and blessing their lives by educating them about the Who, What, Why, When, and How's of being prepared. Hooray for volunteers!

Participants filled out 744 Preparedness Surveys at the Fair with many requests for more information. The results of these surveys closely matched the recent national surveys on preparedness. While there is still a long way to go to ensure that all Utah citizens have taken steps to prepare, there are indications of progress.

A tremendous round of applause to all of you who organized and participated in the many Preparedness Fairs, demonstrations, disaster drills, trainings and other various public outreach efforts throughout the State!

Our Challenge

Part of what makes this country great is our tremendous optimism ~ that "Can do!" way of thinking. But that kind of thinking can also make us vulnerable. In speaking about disaster preparedness, Eric Holdeman, director of emergency management for Seattle's King County, which faces a significant earthquake threat said, "There are four states of denial.

One is, it won't happen. Two is, if it does happen, it won't happen to me. Three is, if it does happen to me, it won't be that bad. And four, if it happens to me and it's bad, there's nothing I can do to stop it anyway."

At a workshop for the country's leading disaster scientists and emergency planners this year, Kathleen Tierney, head of the Natural Hazards Center, stood up to say, "We as human societies have yet to understand ... that nature doesn't care. And for that reason, we must care." She was quoting herself intentionally. She had said the same thing the year before, seven weeks before Katrina.

As Citizen Corps and Pillar Program members, we do care. Our challenge is to work within our communities to help educate, prepare, and train! Working with our local city and county officials, 1st Responders and Emergency Managers is critical for our success. Businesses, volunteer agencies, faith-based organizations, utilities, schools and other partners play an undeniable role in our efforts towards individual and community preparedness. Together we "Can do!"

-Lani Nisbet
Citizen Corps Program Manager



Emergency Kit Service Project

Clear Channel Radio with the Utah Commission on Volunteers/Be Ready Utah sponsored a Preparedness Symposium at the Rose Wagner Theater, September 28, 2006. Utah's Lieutenant Governor, Gary R. Herbert and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Coroon spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness. There were several presentations on how to become better prepared for an emergency or disaster. Lunch was provided for a \$25 donation to the emergency kit service project. Donations were used to purchase 150 kits for distribution to low-income seniors.

Studies have shown that most Americans still lack an emergency kit or do not have the key components at home to assemble a kit in case of an emergency. The purpose of the emergency kit service project was to offer participants at the Preparedness Symposium, an understanding of what goes in a 72-hour kit and directly involve participants in the assembly and packing of the kits. By making kits, participants are more likely to assemble a kit for their home, work and car and take an active role in their community to help educate local residents on the importance of having these necessary resources on hand in the event of an emergency.

The emergency kits were donated to low-income seniors in SLC who attended three hours of training on emergency preparedness. The training was coordinated by the Salt Lake County Health Department. The kits meet Red Cross standards and have a five-year shelf life. The kits were purchased from American Preparedness, a disabled veterans group. A similar project was done at the 2006 National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

-Pati Comes
VISTA

2006 AmeriCorps Member Training

Eight AmeriCorps Programs around the state of Utah are making an impressive difference in the lives of citizens, students, and the environment. From Logan to Moab the programs include the **Utah Conservation Corps (UCC)** with an environmental focus on providing services to national parks and **The Boys and Girls Club of Cache County** which provides after school tutoring programs centered in Logan. The **Utah AmeriCorps Literacy Initiative**, a reading literacy and peer tutoring program is centered in Ogden and has doubled in size to encompass schools throughout Utah.

The **National Ability Center** which facilitates opportunities for citizens with disabilities to participate in a variety of recreational activities is located in Park City. **AmeriCorps and the Medically Under Served** which provides medical treatment to low income citizens centered in Salt Lake City but with sub sites around the state has recently completed a CERT training course for their new members. A new AmeriCorps Program also in Salt Lake City is **AmeriCorps Building Utah's Capacity to End Chronic Homelessness**. This is a welcome addition to the Commission's portfolio of AmeriCorps Programs which will provide mentor/counselors for citizens seeking to gain permanent housing. **Boys and Girls Club of Utah County** has increased the number of members and continues to provide tutoring and homework skills after school. Down in Moab, there is the **Youth Garden Project** a diverse program which includes soil analysis and conservation, planting and harvesting, outdoor construction projects and preparing the harvest to share with the low income population. All of these AmeriCorps Programs continue to provide outstanding service to Utah's communities.

Another side of AmeriCorps is the **VISTA** project currently being implemented within the Utah Commission on Volunteers. The **Utah Citizen Corps VISTA Project** supports the "Be Ready Utah" Campaign launched by the Lt. Governor, Gary R. Herbert in April of 2006. This ongoing effort for community preparedness gives impetus to Citizen Corps Councils around the state of Utah which embrace the CERT program, MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service), Fire Corps and Neighborhood Watch - all pillar programs of Citizen Corps.

The Utah Commission on Volunteers is proud of its AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA which offer support for citizens of Utah to engage volunteers and increase community awareness.

New AmeriCorps program ideas are always welcome for consideration and review.

For more information Contact

-Candace Powers
Program Manager
cpowers@utah.gov



Corporation for
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



New VISTA personnel left to right: Richard See, Mt. Pleasant, UT; Jae Curfman, Cedar City, UT; Annie Quon, Layton, UT; Kenneth Cragun, Ogden, UT; Beverly Waldon, and volunteer, Leslie Burgin.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer.

On January 15, 2007, as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, Americans across the country will celebrate by honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hundreds of thousands of Americans will remember and memorialize Dr. King by participating in service projects in their communities. Together, they will honor King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality by meeting community needs and making the holiday...

"A day ON, not a day OFF."

If you have any questions regarding MLK Day please contact Michael Styles at 801.538.8754



Ready or Not—Here They Come...

Disaster Volunteers!!!

Volunteers – sometimes hundreds, sometimes thousands – show up to help after a disaster, bringing skills, energy and compassion to the relief effort. Whether we refer to them as 'spontaneous' or 'unaffiliated', local residents know the lay of the land and are familiar with local agencies. 'Convergent' volunteers from elsewhere bring energy and fresh hope for the future of the impacted community. Both can help survivors in unexpected ways – if we're prepared for them!

The Utah Commission on Volunteers invites local emergency managers, volunteer coordinators, elected officials, agencies, and all those who have a role in managing spontaneous disaster volunteers to attend this no-cost training on how to organize a Volunteer Coordination Center in your jurisdiction.

**Thursday January 11, 2007
Utah Fire and Rescue Academy
3131 Mike Jense Parkway
Provo, UT 84601
8:00 am – 4:00 pm**



**Lunch will be provided.
Pre-registration is required.
Questions please contact LaDawn Stoddard -
ldstoddard@utah.gov or 801-538-8646**

Training facilitation and VCC Exercise provided by
Volunteer Florida. Lunch provided by the Utah VOAD.

